

3. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 2, wherein the warp and weft cords (1) are arranged substantially at right angles to each other.

4. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein interstices between adjacent cords (1) have side dimensions in the range from 0.05 mm to 12 mm.

5. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 4, wherein interstices between adjacent cords (1) have side dimensions in the range from 3 mm to 10 mm.

6. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 5, wherein interstices between adjacent cords (1) have side dimensions in the range from 5 mm to 10 mm.

7. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in Claim 1 and including two or more substrates of multifilament metal cord mesh.

8. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 7, wherein the mesh pattern of at least two substrates is not coincident.

9. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the direction of the metal cords (1) is not identical in the at least two substrates.

10. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 9, wherein the directions of the metal cords (1) in adjacent substrates are off-set from each other by an angle in the range from 5 degrees to 20 degrees.

11. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 10, wherein the angle is about 10 degrees.

12. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pattern of at least one substrate is offset from that of at least another substrate.

13. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multiple filaments of the metal cord are twisted together as one or more strands.

14. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 13, wherein a plurality of strands are twisted together to form a group.

15. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filament diameter is in the range from 0.05 mm to 1.25 mm.

16. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 15, wherein the filament diameter is about 0.18 mm.

17. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cords (1) are made of steel.

18. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 17, wherein the cords (1) are provided with a corrosion-resistant coating.

19. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cords (1) are made of a corrosion-resistant alloy.

20. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating (3) comprises a polymeric material.

21. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20, wherein the coating (3) comprises a thermoplastic polymer.

22. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and rubber.

23. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20, wherein the coating (3) is applied to the substrate by laminating.

24. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20, wherein the coating (3) is applied to the substrate by liquid extrusion.

25. (Amended) A composite fabric as claimed in claim 20, wherein the coating (3) is applied to the substrate by dipping the substrate into molten or semi-molten coating material.

26. (Amended) A goods container provided with a curtain comprising a sheet of a composite fabric comprising a substrate in the form of a mesh of multifilament cord and a coating applied to the substrate so as to form a continuous sheet adhered to the substrate; means to suspend the curtain from an upper portion of said container; and means to secure the curtain in place with respect to said container.

27. (Amended) A goods container as claimed in claim 26, wherein the composite fabric does not extend as far as an upper edge portion of the curtain.

28. (Amended) A goods container as claimed in claim 27, wherein the upper edge

portion of the curtain is provided by a sheet of conventional curtain material secured to an upper edge of the composite fabric.

The foregoing amendments place the claims of the application into better condition for examination. A marked-up version of the claims is appended hereto as pages i-iv.

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